



**COMMON COUNCIL
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held remotely, via WebEx, on Monday, January 3, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting was also livestreamed on the City's Facebook page.

Present:

Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell
Councilwoman Meghan Carta
Councilwoman Grady Faulkner, Jr.
Councilman Darnell Ford
Councilman Edward Ford, Jr.
Councilman Anthony Gennaro, Sr.

Councilman Vincent Loffredo
Councilman Edward McKeon
Councilman Eugene Nocera
Councilman Philip Pessina
Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim, Chair
Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan, Esq.
Linda Reed, Clerk of the Common Council

Absent: Councilman Anthony Mangiafico

Also Present:

Economic & Community Development – Joseph Samolis, Director
General Counsel – Brig Smith, Esq.
Health – Kevin Elak, Acting Director
Mayor's Chief of Staff -- Barbara Knoll Peterson
Recreation – Cathy Lechowicz, Director
Police – Chief Erik Costa
Police – Capt. John Lozefski
Public Works - Christopher Holden, PE, Acting Director
Public Works – Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator
Water & Sewer – Joseph Fazzino, PE, Director

Public: WebEx: 3 Facebook: unknown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Benjamin Florsheim calls the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He welcomes everyone to the Regular Meeting of the Common Council. The Chair asks Councilman Philip Pessina to lead the Common Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Pessina calls for a point of order. The City lost a valued member of the Planning & Zoning Commission a few days ago. He asks for a moment of silence for Nick Fazzino, remembering the great work that he did, on his passing.

Following the moment of silence, the Chair states that the Fazzino family has given an extraordinary amount in terms of public service and commitment to the City. The City mourns with them, there will be no replacement for Nick Fazzino and his service. We all mourn that loss together.

2. Accept/Amend the Agenda

APPROVED

Councilman Philip Pessina moves to accept the agenda. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico.) The matter is approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM

APPROVED

Councilman Philip Pessina moves to accept the minutes. Councilman Eugene Nocera seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers, Blackwell Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico.) The matter is approved

B. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM

APPROVED

Councilman Philip Pessina moves to accept the minutes. Councilman Edward McKeon seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers, Blackwell Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico.) The matter is approved.

4. Public Hearing on Agenda Items -- Opens

The Chair opens public hearing at 7:10 PM. The Chair explains that public comment is limited to items on the agenda. Any member of the public looking to speak, may do so. For those in the Chamber, members of the public may come to the podium. Those participating remotely may use the WebEx hand raise function to alert that Chair that they wish to speak. The Chair will alternate between speakers in the Chamber and remote speakers during the course of this public hearing. Each speaker will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to speak. Speakers are asked to state their name and address for the record. The public hearing is limited to 30 minutes. If, at that time, there are additional speakers, the Council may vote to extend the public hearing portion of the meeting.

5. Public Hearing on Agenda Items -- Closes

There being no public comment, the Chair closes the public hearing at 7:12 PM.

6. Old Business

- A. Approving a swap of a 4.8 acre portion of the City of Middletown owned parcel (Map-Lot 10-0147) in exchange for a 25.6 acre piece of land from the parcel owned by D&V Development of Middletown LLC (Map-Lot 09-0017) with an associated conservation easement area with D&V Development of Middletown LLC on the remaining parcel that will be retained by D&V Development of Middletown LLC and the Mayor of Middletown is authorized to sign all documents necessary to swap, subject to review and approval by the office of General Counsel as to form and content. (*Tabled and referred to Board of Education, December 6, 2021*)**

APPROVED, TABLING CONTINUED

RESOLUTION NO. 156-21; K: review/resolution/ECD D&V Mile Lane land swap RS 156-21 – 6 Dec 2021

WHEREAS, D&V Development of Middletown LLC (“D&V”) owns a parcel of land in Middletown, designated as Parcel ID 4006, Map-Lot 09-0017 (“the Parcel”); and

WHEREAS, D&V wishes to get access to the Parcel via Kaplan Drive in order to construct a residential development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown (the “City”) owns a parcel of land adjacent to the Parcel designated as Parcel 118, Map-Lot 10-0147 on Mile Lane; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to swap approximately 4.8 acres of land at Map-Lot 10-0147 with D&V in order to give the company access to Laurel Lane; and

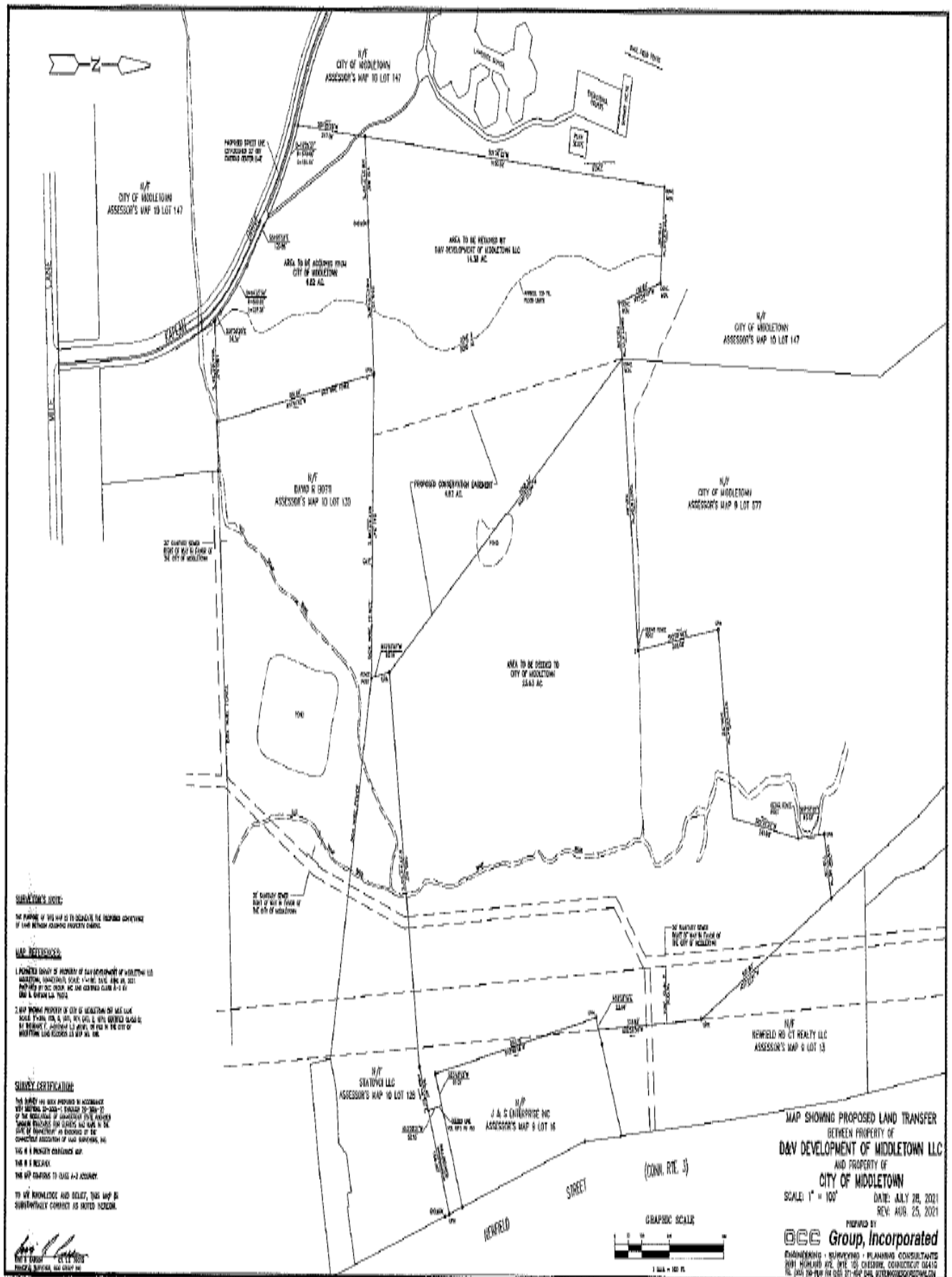
WHEREAS, D&V, in exchange for the City's 4.8 acres, is willing to deed a piece of the Parcel totaling approximately 25.6 acres and an approximately 4.8 acre conservation easement area located at Map-Lot 09-0017 to the City; and

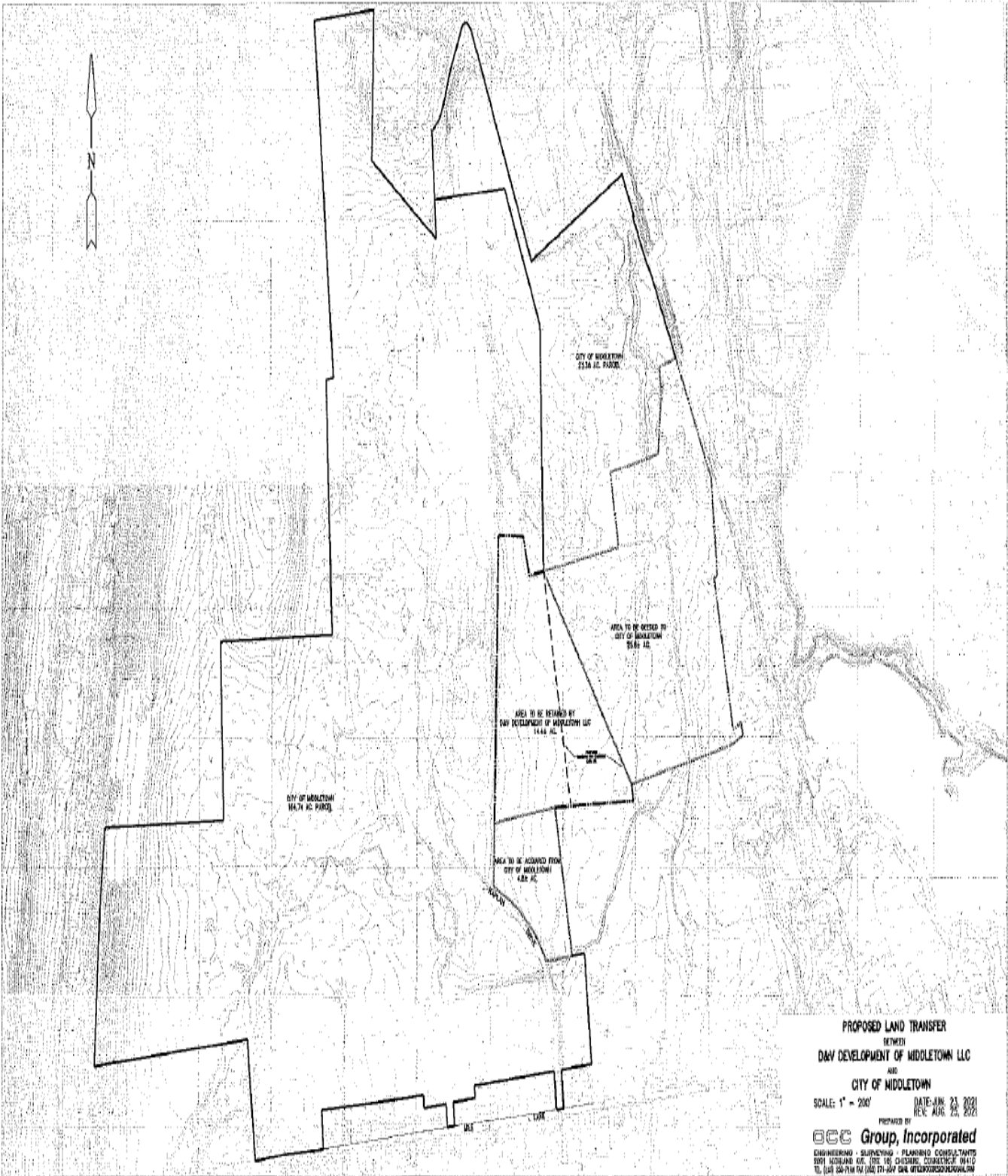
WHEREAS, the City's Planning and Zoning Commission has approved an affirmative G.S. 8-24 report for the land swap; and

WHEREAS, the City's Conservation and Agriculture Commission has approved the land swap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: The Common Council approves a swap of a 4.8 acre portion of the City of owned parcel (Map-Lot 10-0147) in exchange for a 25.6 acre piece of land from the parcel owned by D&V Development of Middletown LLC (Map-Lot 09-0017) with an associated conservation easement area with D&V Development of Middletown LLC on the remaining parcel that will be retained by D&V Development of Middletown LLC and the Mayor of Middletown is authorized to sign all documents necessary to swap, subject to review and approval by the office of General Counsel as to form and content.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: A portion of Map-Lot 09-0017 will become exempt and a portion of 10-0147 will be added to the grand list for future development





Councilman Vincent Loffredo states that this item should remain on the table that no action be taken this evening. This matter is still to be reviewed by the Middletown Board of Education. They to do this at their next meeting later this month. It is his hope that this item will be on the Common Council agenda, if the Board of Education takes a favorable action. Councilman Loffredo moves that this tem, Item 6A, remain on the agenda. Councilman Eugene Nocera seconds the motion.

The Chair states that, for the record, the next Board of Education meeting is on January 11th.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers, Blackwell Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico.) The matter is approved.

7. Mayor requests Council Clerk to read appropriation requests and the Certificate of Director of Finance (NONE)
8. Department, Committee, Commission Reports and Grant Confirmation Approval

Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. reads moves to approve. Councilman Edward McKeon seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico.) The matter is approved

A. City Clerk's Certificate
APPROVED



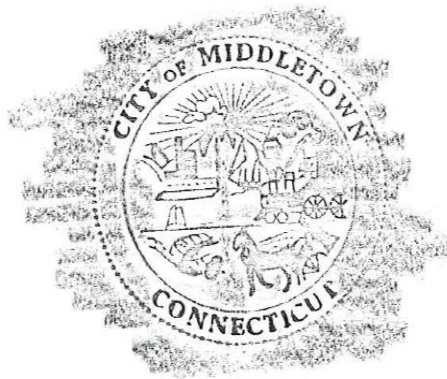
City & Town Clerk's Office
245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

GA

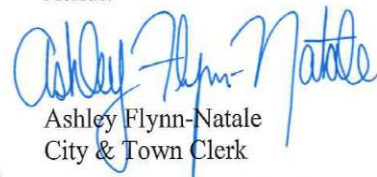
Certification

I, Ashley Flynn-Natale, City and Town Clerk of the City of Middletown and custodian of the records and seal thereof, hereby certify that all ordinances and appropriations passed and adopted at the regular meeting of the Common Council on December 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., and the special meeting of the Common Council on December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., have been advertised in the local newspaper.

Dated at Middletown, Connecticut, this 17th day of December, 2021.



Attest:


Ashley Flynn-Natale
City & Town Clerk

B. Monthly Reports -- Finance Department: Transfer Report to December 21, 2021
APPROVED

Transfers of Funds - Operating Budget Accounts					
From11/23/21			To12/21/21		
FY 2021-2022					
			From	To	
Date	Department	Budget Item	Account No.	Account No.	Amount
12/02/21	IT	Camera Replacement-Phase III	2070-03500-79523-x-x-2022		(780.95)
		Central Communications Printers		2070-03500-79515-x-x-2022	780.95
12/08/21	Library	Data Services Online	1000-07000-53420		(2,000.00)
		Telephone		1000-07000-54110	2,000.00
12/08/21	Council	Contractual Services	1000-12000-55185		(3,959.61)
		General Administrative		1000-12000-52110	3,959.61
12/09/21	CNR	CNR Contribution	1000-35100-59500		(400,000.00)
	Police	4 Marked Vehicles		2070-18000-79804-x-x-2022	160,000.00
		3 Unmarked Vehicles		2070-18000-79805-x-x-2022	126,000.00
		Marking, Lighting, Communications for Vehicles		2070-18000-79806-x-x-2022	83,000.00
		25 Windows/10 desktops/4 MDT'S		2070-18000-79807-x-x-2022	30,000.00
		2 Work Stations for IT Positions		2070-18000-79809-x-x-2022	1,000.00
12/15/21	Recreation	General Administrative	1000-32000-52110-0321		(2,500.00)
		Busing	1000-32000-55415-0321		(2,000.00)
		Printing	1000-32000-52155-0321		(1,000.00)
		Salaries & Wages, PT Seasonal	1000-32000-51230-0321		(1,500.00)
		Misc Supplies		1000-32000-53115-0321	7,000.00
12/15/21	Police	Contractual Services	1000-18000-55185-0180		(10,000.00)
		Misc Supplies		1000-18000-53115-0180	10,000.00
12/16/21	CNR	CNR Contribution	1000-35100-59500		(26,612.10)
	Public Works	Replacement Truck/Parks		2070-22000-79492-x-x-2022	26,612.10
12/17/21	Econ & Comm Dev	General Administrative	1000-18000-52110		(1,000.00)
		Contractual Services		1000-18500-55185	1,000.00
12/20/21	PW/Highway	Contractual Services	1000-22000-55185-0226		(15,000.00)
	PW/Garage	Tires		1000-22000-53530-0225	15,000.00
12/21/21	Land Use	General Administrative	1000-14000-52110		(600.00)
		Cell Phone		1000-14000-54120	600.00
12/21/21	Sewer	Contingency Fund	2050-65000-57020		(10,000.00)
		Refunds		2050-65000-52175	10,000.00
12/21/21	Fire	Salaries & Wages, FT Perm	2010-50000-51110-0500		(110,000.00)
		Fill-Ins		2010-50000-51971-0500	110,000.00
12/21/21	Police	3 Unmarked Vehicles	2070-18000-79805-x-x-2022		(9,731.20)
		4 Marked Vehicles		2070-18000-79804-x-x-2022	9,731.20
					0.00

8B

8B

C. Board of Education: Acct. No 2450-33000-59405-x-03025; miscellaneous grants: \$8,409,589.46
APPROVED

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

**REQUEST FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL
OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT**

Grant Number:	592	Date of Request:	12/14/2021
Name of Grant:	as listed below		
Amount Requested:	\$8,409,589.46	Code:	2450-33000-59405-X-03025
Grant Period: From:	7/1/2021	To:	6/30/2022
		Rev Code	2450-33000-43480-X-X
Type of Grant:		Amount Loaned from General Fund:	\$0.00
Department Administering Grant:	Middletown Board of Education		

When any department, commission, office or agency is the recipient of any federal, state or other grant allocated for specific purposes, these funds shall be immediately transferred to the specific unit which has made application for such grant. Confirmation and approval of such transfer shall be given at the next regularly scheduled sessions of the Common Council. Notwithstanding any other Charter provision, the action of the Common Council in confirming and approving such transfer shall be an appropriation; no public hearing thereon shall be required and said funds may then be expended for the purposes for which they were granted.

Description of services to be provided by this Grant:

2019-ADED-PEP PGM ENHANCEMENT PROJ \$160,000.00; 2021-ADED-IELCE INT ENG LIT&CIVIS ED \$54,000.00; 2071-ARP ESSER \$7,439,793.00; 2393-SCHOOL READINESS COOR \$90,000.00; 2614-GREATER HARTFORD B2B \$25,000.00; 2734-AFTER SCHOOL: MACD/BIEL \$10,080.00; 2721-SPECIAL EDUCATION: MEDICAID \$717.12; 8001-RETIREEES/COBRA INSURANCE \$476,563.39; 8003-WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS \$15,001.81; 8004-PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FEES \$11,298.00; 8009-MAINTENANCE/RENTALS \$312.00; 8012-SALE OF ELECTRICITY \$38,084.60; 8023-CENTRAL OFFICE RECEIPTS \$4,154.59; 8027-CENTRAL OFFICE REIMBURSEMENT \$9,893.91; 8028-MTC RECEIPTS \$2,963.50; 8034-ADULT EDUC-ENRICHMENT \$5,000.00; 8035-ADED - GED RECEIPTS \$78.00; 8039-ADED PEARSON RECEIPTS \$96.25; 8095-SPEC EDUC-REVENUE \$66,553.29. Total Special Programs through 11/15/2021: \$12,340,681.79. Additions: \$8,409,589.46. Total Special Programs through 12/14/2021: \$20,750,271.25

Signature: _____

Requested by: Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Acting
Superintendent

Status: Passed

Status Date: 1/3/2022

D. Board of Education: Acct. No. 2450-33000-52183-x-x; cafeteria and food services: \$243,489.14
APPROVED

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

**REQUEST FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL
OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT**

Grant Number: Date of Request:
Name of Grant:
Amount Requested: Code:
Grant Period: From: To: Rev Code
Type of Grant: Amount Loaned from General Fund:
Department Administering Grant:

When any department, commission, office or agency is the recipient of any federal, state or other grant allocated for specific purposes, these funds shall be immediately transferred to the specific unit which has made application for such grant. Confirmation and approval of such transfer shall be given at the next regularly scheduled sessions of the Common Council. Notwithstanding any other Charter provision, the action of the Common Council in confirming and approving such transfer shall be an appropriation; no public hearing thereon shall be required and said funds may then be expended for the purposes for which they were granted.

Description of services to be provided by this Grant:

2799-FOOD SERVICES \$243,489.14. Total Cafeteria/Food Services BOE through 11/15/2021: \$436,289.22. Additions: \$243,489.14. Total Cafeteria/Food Services BOE through 12/14/2021: \$679,778.36.

Signature: _____

Requested by:

Status:

Status Date:

E. Board of Education: Acct. No. 2450-33000-59400-x-02020; summer pre-K: (\$329.86)
APPROVED

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

**REQUEST FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL
OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT**

Grant Number:	594	Date of Request:	12/14/2021
Name of Grant:	as listed below		
Amount Requested:	(\$329.86)	Code:	2450-33000-59400-X-03030
Grant Period: From:	7/1/2021	To:	6/30/2022
		Rev Code	2450-33000-43490-X-X
Type of Grant:		Amount Loaned from General Fund:	\$0.00
Department Administering Grant:	Middletown Board of Education		

When any department, commission, office or agency is the recipient of any federal, state or other grant allocated for specific purposes, these funds shall be immediately transferred to the specific unit which has made application for such grant. Confirmation and approval of such transfer shall be given at the next regularly scheduled sessions of the Common Council. Notwithstanding any other Charter provision, the action of the Common Council in confirming and approving such transfer shall be an appropriation; no public hearing thereon shall be required and said funds may then be expended for the purposes for which they were granted.

Description of services to be provided by this Grant:

2474-FRC SUMMER PREK (\$329.86) Grant Reduction. Total Grant Commitments through 9/15/2021: \$3,855,558.90.
Addition: (\$329.86). Total Grant Commitments through 12/14/2021: \$3,855,229.04

Signature: _____
Requested by: Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Acting
Superintendent
Status: Passed
Status Date: 1/3/2022

- F. Public Works/Recycling: Acct. No. 3528-22000-592000-43242-0222; Carton Council Recycling Education Grant to develop, incentivize, and improve recycling education, prominently including food and beverage cartons, and to ensure that residents see the value of recycling via social platforms, online or in person: \$2,000

APPROVED

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

REQUEST FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL
OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT

Grant Number:	595	Date of Request:	12/20/2021
Name of Grant:	Carton Council Recycling Education Grant		
Amount Requested:	\$2,000.00	Code:	3528-22000-59200-0222
Grant Period: From:	12/16/2021	To:	
		Rev Code	3528-22000-43242-0222
Type of Grant:	State	Amount Loaned from General Fund:	\$0.00
Department Administering Grant:	Public Works - Recycling		

When any department, commission, office or agency is the recipient of any federal, state or other grant allocated for specific purposes, these funds shall be immediately transferred to the specific unit which has made application for such grant. Confirmation and approval of such transfer shall be given at the next regularly scheduled sessions of the Common Council. Notwithstanding any other Charter provision, the action of the Common Council in confirming and approving such transfer shall be an appropriation; no public hearing thereon shall be required and said funds may then be expended for the purposes for which they were granted.

Description of services to be provided by this Grant:

A grant of \$2,000 has been received to develop, incentivize and improve recycling education in communities across the City of Middletown. The funds will be used to promote recycling in general, while also prominently including cartons. Messaging will include describing examples of what food and beverage cartons are; ensure residents see the value of recycling via social platforms, online or in person.

Signature:	
Requested by:	W. Russo
Status:	Passed
Status Date:	1/3/2022

- G. Police Department: Acct. No. 3493-18000-592000-0180-00000-2022; Federal JAG Violent Crime Prevention Grant 100% reimbursable to \$25,000:for equipment and services to prevent violent crime: \$25,000

APPROVED

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457

REQUEST FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL

OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT

Grant Number: 596

Date of Request: 12/20/2021

Name of Grant: Jag Violent Crime Prevention (VCP) FY 2021-2022

Amount Requested: \$25,000.00

Code: 3493-18000-59200-0180-00000-2022

Grant Period: From: 2/1/2022 To: 9/30/2022

Rev Code 3493-18000-43242-0180-00000-2022

Type of Grant: State

Amount Loaned from General Fund: \$25,000.00

Department Administering Grant: Police

When any department, commission, office or agency is the recipient of any federal, state or other grant allocated for specific purposes, these funds shall be immediately transferred to the specific unit which has made application for such grant. Confirmation and approval of such transfer shall be given at the next regularly scheduled sessions of the Common Council. Notwithstanding any other Charter provision, the action of the Common Council in confirming and approving such transfer shall be an appropriation; no public hearing thereon shall be required and said funds may then be expended for the purposes for which they were granted.

Description of services to be provided by this Grant:

Grant will be used for equipment and services to prevent violent crimes. Federal Jag grant is 100% reimbursible up to \$25,000.00. No financial impact.

Signature: _____

Requested by: Chief Erik Costa

Status: Passed

Status Date: 1/3/2022

9. Report to the Common Council

A. American Rescue Plan: Mayor Florsheim

The Chair states that the American Rescue Plan Task Force has had its first couple of meetings. Its next meeting is scheduled on January 12th. The Task Force is a good idea by the Council and City to consider the big questions of how to spend this money.

They still ask the questions, talking to neighboring communities to see what neighboring communities are doing with their new Federal dollars. What they are finding is that a lot are spending most, if not all, of the funds on Water and Sewer projects. This is something that was contemplated by Congress and is mentioned in the Act. The reason is the connection to the pandemic is among other things, is that advanced, modern sewer systems were used – Mattabassett being one of them -- to try to prevent the spread of Covid by analyzing waste water and trying to anticipate where it was spreading before it happened to try to protect those communities. The more advanced sewers that we have, the better equipped we are to stay ahead of not only a pandemic, but other trends. That can be very helpful. It also happens to be the country has aging sewer and water infrastructure, especially this part of the country. This was a good way to get quick cash into that system. We need it here in Middletown as elsewhere for large scale investment in water and sewer infrastructure. He states that his feeling about this, noting that it is the Task Force's feeling collectively, is that we need to make it a priority, but should not be the only thing that we spend our dollars on. The urgency is there and the value add is there. We have been working closely with the Water & Sewer Department and the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to see what projects we need to take action on.

A couple of facts stare us in the face. One is that, even if we spend all \$20M dollars – as some communities are doing – on water and sewer upgrades that would not solve all of the challenges that we face to upgrade the water and sewer systems for the next 50 years. That is an even bigger project and for which we need a comprehensive plan. He does not say this to alarm everybody, but he says it as a reason that we are already having serious conversations about it. It needs to be on everybody's radar. It is going to be a topic that we will come back to, continue to come back to, adding that it is a topic that is not familiar to many of you. There is much more that we need to do on the water and sewer infrastructure and we are committed to doing that work. He reiterates that, even if we spend all of the Federal dollars on it, we would not get there.

He thinks that the public needs to see the Federal pandemic response going to things like mental health services and adding testing capacity, getting tests at home, and for our various businesses that continue to struggle in various ways.

All that is to say that, as a Task Force they have agreed on a general breakdown: about 50% of the Federal dollars, about \$10M – noting that no votes have been taken and only one specific project has been assigned so far, as you all know. In terms of ballpark numbers, about \$10M, about half of the dollars, will go toward infrastructure upgrades, mostly for water and sewer. The other half will go towards either new or continuing, existing City programs in partnership with non-profit agencies in the community, with individuals in the community, generally to support health and well-being, to support the economic impact of the pandemic. There are many things that will fall under that category. That is the big picture as to how we expect to allocate it.

The process by which that is going to happen is taking shape. At the next meeting, on January 12th at City Hall, Room 208, they will present, in a workshop setting, the application that the Department of Economic and Community Development is in the process of finalizing. Anybody, including a City Department, looking to take advantage of these funds will need to use to explain the project to allow the Task Force to make informed decisions. These are applications for the community development block grant (CDBG) federal dollars, which are administered by the Citizens' Advisory Committee. In some ways, this process will mirror that one. It will be a little different. We want to be sure that everyone has a fair hearing and those making the decision will have as much information as we can get to them: how many people will benefit; what the viability of the project is: the "shovel readiness" of it; and how it responds to urgent community needs that have been exacerbated by Covid. The next stage is that workshop presentation. The Department is working on a companion website as to how people can apply, background information, that sort of thing. That is slated to go up early this month before the meeting on January 12th. We look forward to continuing to roll this out. It will take more time to do it the way we are doing it rather than giving all of the money to one project or another, but this approach will pay off. It was wise of the Council and the City to put this Task Force together to make informed decisions. From what he sees happening, the rest of the State and other towns, he feels very comfortable about the decision making of this. He is happy to take questions.

Councilman Edward McKeon urges that, in this Covid environment, they not have meetings in Room 208.

The Chair replies that, as he said, (*inaudible*)

Councilman McKeon states that, now that they are this stage of negotiations, it would also be interesting to open this up with hybrid meeting so that the public can tune in, if they so choose to. He thinks a word of wisdom about Covid and to get the worked out.

The Chair replies that is a good suggestion, The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera thanks the Chair for his description of the process and for his support of the Council's wish to put this committee together. He has witnessed outstanding commitment and dialogue to a large committee of community and business oriented people, who now understand the needs of the City better. He also recommends that they have a workshop, like we are doing on tax stabilization, in February or March on the water and sewer needs to better inform the Council on the steps that need to be taken, there are a lot of good news. Unlike a lot of communities, we do not need to rebuild the sewage treatment plant, but we do have antiquated system that needs replacing, including the connection of Public Works. He adds that he thinks that a joint workshop would be a good idea.

Councilman Philip Pessina concurs, stating that it is a great idea.

The Chair states that this is something that we can explore. We do recognize these long term issues about 10 years before other communities did. We are in good shape in that respect, but what happens when we investigate is to find more problems. We are at that stage right now. A lot of other communities still have to find out what their problems are. He reiterates that a workshop would be appropriate. The Chair calls on Councilman Vincent Loffredo.

Councilman Loffredo states that he has a couple of follow-up questions. The City and a few other municipalities have been sued about the impact on the (Long Island) Sound. He asks if the Chair can comment on how that is being addressed or is it being taken into account considering the merits of the suit that has been placed before us.

The Chair replies that he does not want to comment out of turn on pending litigation. It is being taken seriously. It dates back to action that were take – or not taken – years ago. We understand that both parties want to come to a resolution on and we are going to work through that process. He thinks of the lawsuit is like a canary in a coal mine. Think of it as a sign of things to come if appropriate actions are not taken. As characterized to him, municipalities will act on thing like this to the extent that DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection), through the court system, private entities hold them to the standard. The State regulatory agencies will only put as much pressure as the EPA (United States Department of Environmental Protection) or the people above them are putting pressure on them for results when it comes to things like this. We are in the position where we are starting to feel that pressure from DEEP from the non-profits and watchdogs who keep an eye on this sort of thing, but it could get much worse. We are not at the phase where we need to panic, but we are at the phase where we need to be proactive. We are proactive now, there will be more than one lawsuit, more than one regulatory action, and there will be bigger problems to face.

Councilman Loffredo states that he has a follow-up on the Task Force. One thing that came up about a year ago, half a year ago, when negotiating for the work at the yacht club, we reached out to General Counsel for a legal opinion as to whether or not some of that money could be used for the upgrading to the toil of the City's costs, addressing a number of issues, the roof itself. We did receive a clear and explicit indication from General Counsel that use of those funds would be totally appropriate and in concert with the Federal legislation and the regulations. His follow-up question deals with all of the other possibilities that are out there for health purposes and a variety of other groups to share, or be given, monies for x, y, and z purposes. Will we receive a legal option for such expenditures that say "yes" the regulations have been reviewed, the law has been reviewed and the City expending that money is appropriate to avoid potential after-the-fact project, to get this, to the best of our ability to legal counsel and to other organizations. This is to make sure that we don't spend money as we shouldn't and have some assurance, up front, so that we don't advise group that they can apply, but, frankly, at the end of the day, using that money for that purpose is not appropriate. He wants some assurance that research and work is being done now and not later.

The Chair replies that is a good question. It is a good thing to bear in mind, noting that, just like the sewer work, it is better to know now. If there is any kind of question, there will be that type of investigations. Some things will be clear cut: anything related to testing, anything related to water and sewer, but any time there is any question, that is . . . there are lots of questions out there. When we had a questions, we reached out to the Congressional Offices. The Congressional Offices stated that they cannot even get responses to their individual questions let alone the individual municipalities. They are still working through it with the resources thither have at the Treasury, This underscores the need for using our own expertise, to the extent that we can. We can use the precedent that we have been given. He notes that General Counsel Brig Smith is sitting on the statewide committee providing guidance on this. We will be on the cutting edge of knowing what is allowed and what's not. We will cover all bases on this at the front end rather than the back end.

Councilman Loffredo states that he has one follow-up. He asks if these expenditures will come before the Council for voting to approve those final expenditure. He asks: "Will the Task Force come before the Council? Correct."

The Chair replies, "Correct."

There being no further questions, the Chair moves on to the Riverfront report.

B. Riverfront: Mayor Florsheim

The Chair states that the Riverfront report is brief. It is moving along, very smoothly.

The big news is that we have our next community workshop coming up. The first one was very successful. Anyone who has gone through Main Street Markey has seen the storefront. There you can see the feedback that we have gotten and a tone more since the surveys have been filled out, both in person and at the storefront and on line. There has been lots of good feedback coming in, which you can see at the web portal and the storefront collection points. It is gratifying to see the public engagement and excitement he is again glad that people are on the same page as to what they want to see. There is some disagreement of the specifics, but real consensus around making sure that public usage and open space – not in the sense of wilderness, but as usable, a passive recreational space – are going to be a centerpiece of that development, getting that balanced with business and commercial development is key. The way to get that to work is get all the details right: have every property, every parcel, every stakeholder accounted to get that balance otherwise it is just an aspiration.

He is happy to report that have had really, really productive meeting. The City and the consultants have been meeting as a team with small to medium sized group, people whose voices need to be heard, from people at CVH, who has property abutting the river, to businesses and residential groups in that immediate area, to Wesleyan and the Chamber, the Anti-Racism Task Force, to other City Task Forces and boards and commissions, past Harbor Commissions and past Harbor Agencies. It is an ongoing process. They are taking from that, we are taking from that, not only the history, but also that people on the ground right now around the riverfront, what their processes are, what their next project is going to be or not be. Having these conversations now before bringing in specific development plans will help us get through what could be the hard parts later, we are trying to get everybody on the same page.

That is about all he has to update. There will be more following the community workshop. He asks the Councilmembers to spread the word, adding that it will be virtual on January 11th. It will be on his social media and the City's social media. He hopes to see everyone there, he is willing to answer any questions, before taking questions he notes that Harbor Park came up. As they are voting tonight on LoCIP funds for the roof replacement, they will also look for other avenues for that project. He is happy to report that this project is in the very, very final stages of completion for the roof, if not already completed, there is still some work to be done on the rest of the building. It is an important step in the right direction.

He states that he would be remiss by not mentioning that thanks to Bill Russo and his team at Public Works as well as Councilman Gene Nocera and the Public Works Commission. Under their leadership, we now have the new railing up at Harbor Park. If you have not been down to see them, he invites people to do so. It is a big step in the right direction and paves the way for more positive change. He thanks everyone.

The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina states that he drove by it the other day. The roof is fabulous. The railings and boardwalk, everything. His question is if they have engaged the Harbor Development Commission, adding that when he was on that several years ago, they talked about docking an having boats come in, That is one of the city commissions and he is wondering if they had reached out to them for input.

The Chair replies that this is a great question. He does not know if they have met yet, but does know that they are on the list of stakeholders. He will hopefully be able to report on that shortly.

C. COVID 19 Update: Health Department - Kevin Elak, Acting Director

Acting Health Director Kevin Elak states that some of his report repeats what he stated during Questions to Director. He will share the information for the public, noting that he hopes it will be helpful to them.

Every week he sends out the report to Councilmembers and community stakeholders as to the Covid status in Middletown, noting that he has been doing this for almost two (2) years. He offers some highlights, adding it is not data heavy. All of Connecticut, every county, is in the high risk level as defined by the CDC (Center for Disease Control). This should not be a surprise to anybody. This means a high level of transmission, It is the same for every town in Connecticut with only one exception here in Middletown, the data show that in the past two (2) weeks, there has been an average of 200 cases per week in Middletown, We have seen about 475 cases in the past two weeks, which is a stark difference from what we saw a few weeks ago. It is not different from what we see in any other part of the State. When we compare our numbers to town of our size, as to case rates, we are on the lower side compared to other towns of our size. The same holds for the percent positive Middletown has one of the lowest percent positive rates compared to towns of similar size and population. We also do the most amount of testing with almost 8,000 tests in Middletown in the past two weeks compared to other towns, which are just round 5,000. That may not be welcome data for people struggling to find easy access to tests, but we are fortunate to have a lot of different places in town – a pharmacy or urgent care center, the State center at Cross Street Church, (*inaudible*) Labs. They are constantly to look to improve those. He will get back to that.

Some of the data that he mentions in his report are comparison of risk of being vaccinated and not fully vaccinated. We look at the data and do a relative risk. Some of the numbers are staggering, If you are

not vaccinated you have a 33x higher risk of dying from Covid-19 and a 12x higher risk of hospitalization. This is what is actually being observed and the numbers coming from the State.

Another striking number is in hospitalization. Moving forward, the metrics like positivity rate and cases are going to be use, especially as we see more use of home test kits. Data from these kits are not reported to the State so we will miss that data as to positivity cases and positive versus negative test rates. Testing at home does not get reported, cannot get reported to local or State health Department. At home tests are very valuable to have so people can rapidly identify whether or not they are positive or negative.

Getting back to the data, 71% of hospitalizations are the unvaccinated. We have good data in Connecticut that shows that being fully vaccinate, especially with a booster, provides better protection than not being vaccinated.

He wants to focus on his strategies. We are not veering far from what we have talked about during this pandemic. We are not changing strategies. There are three (3) big tools to protect yourself. He likes to use the analogy of preparing for a hurricane. You are given the warning and can install plywood over windows or install sandbags. There is a lot to do to protect yourself before the storm hits. With the Omicron wave coming up, there is a lot that people can do to protect themselves. You can choose to do anything and take a change. We still know that getting vaccinated is the best thing that you can do for yourself. If not vaccinated, it is not too late to start initiating the vaccine. We have plenty of providers where you can get a vaccine. You can check the City website to see where you can get a vaccine.

Another strategy is wearing a mask, which they have recommended for a long time. Any mask is good. With the widespread cases, wearing an N95 or KN95 mask if going to provide even better protection. They are more widely available now, which we did not see early in the pandemic The City has received a large supply of N95 masks and will be working in the next couple of days to distribute.

The final tool is testing. As public health professionals, they have recommended this to people. We remind elope that, if you have had close contact with someone having Covid or if you have symptoms, which at this time of year may be a cold or flu or Covid, it is a good idea to get tested. If you are going to gather with people, it is a good idea to get tested before gathering. We now know that we have to follow-up with the hot topic of providing more access to the at-home test. The challenge that we face as a State and nation is having an ample supply of these tests. Having these readily available to test often to protect themselves. The City got a supply of tests form the State, It is not the number that we expected. Mayor Florsheim issues press release today that, we did not receive a large enough supply to be able to share with the public, but we are working with our partners and providers in town to get these out to the community to those who need them most: the underserved and vulnerable populations. They have started doing that, having given out about half the supply. By the end of the week, they will all be distributed to this who need them.

One quick update on what the Health Department has been focusing on over the past month: getting boosters out to populations that are at high risk, that are vulnerable. They hope they have reached the targeted population of the elderly, residential facilities, and home-bound residents. They continue to do that, he encourages everyone to get a booster shot.

The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera followed by Councilman Edward McKeon.

Councilman Nocera thanks Acting Director Elak for all he does. It is not a marathon, but an Ironman task. He acknowledges the Health Department staff for all they do for our community. His question: given the data just presented on the effectiveness of getting vaccinated, the return to school is in the perfect storm. We have a huge increase in transmission among the kids, adding that, in the schools, they are in close proximity. He asks what the State is doing to encourage age 5-year old children and up to get vaccinated. He does not see a significant campaign for families to consider this, noting that he little ones need this protection, too.

Acting Director Elak replies that Councilman Nocera makes a good point. The focus is on boosting the population, which takes away from getting the firs vaccine into people, including children. On Wednesday, they begin working with Griffin Hospital providing vaccines for kids ages 5 to 11 at Cross Street Church, they have not done this to date, having focused on ages 12 and up. They are pleased with this as they will be doing the ages 12 and up while Griffin Hospital focus on ages 5 to 11 population. Working together, they will provide vaccines for kids and their caregivers.

The Chair calls on Councilman Edward McKeon.

Councilman McKeon states that he has two (2) questions. He asks if, demographically, we know how many children have been hospitalized due to Covid.

Acting Director Elak asks if he wants to know in Middletown or in the State.

Councilman McKeon replies, either, noting that he heard that the State (*inaudible*) giving the information out.

Acting Director Elak replies that there is one piece of data in the weekly report. He is not sure if it states the number of case, but it does give the report. He notes that there is not much data coming out on that.

Councilman McKeon states that, nationally, there is some reporting that there are more and more children being hospitalized. This leads his second point, which was discussed during Questions to Directors. There are things that we can do, including wearing masks, which is recommended by everybody from Dr. Fauci to the CDC. Even the Governor says it; however, he is not willing to mandate it even for a short period of time. Councilman McKeon states that he believes that we owe it to people, to children and parents from 5 year and younger, who cannot be vaccinated, and to those who cannot be vaccinated because they are immunocompromised or otherwise compromised. Someone said that wearing a mask is an act of love. He remarks that, walking through Stop & Shop on a Sunday morning, it seems that there are a lot of people here, who do not have a lot of love in their hearts. We need to give a tool to business owners. The Governor has said that we cannot legislate common sense. People should be able to go up to these people and say to them, "Please put your mask on." He knows that the Mayor's Office is thinking about it that the Acting Health Director is thinking about it. He urges them, as soon as possible, to implement a mask mandate in Middletown for a short period of time – a month – which can be reconsidered. We are hoping that this surge will be a steep upgrade and a steep down grade. Within that month, it will give people the common sense tool of wearing a mask. This is not a question, but he urges the Mayor and Acting Health Director to consider this mask mandate as soon as possible.

Acting Director Elak replies that, as discussed during Questions to Directors, he does fully support . . . he is hoping that the Governor would make a decision as a State to do that. He thinks that we are at the point, even if short-lived, that again it's a tool that we are thinking about the business community using. Sometimes people need that: something mandated by the town to give enough teeth for people to say, as you mentions. It would be a mandate, not just a recommendation.

The Chair states that, as a point or personal privilege, it is something the he will echo to look closely at, and having been looking closely at. We were holding out that there would be State action, he was on the phone call, the famous phone call where the municipalities were told about the test coming and then not coming, There were a lot of mayors and first selectman, who do not have a lot to say about the tests, but were hoping for a mask mandate, the act that this d dnnot happen after that was, if not at the State level . . . message sent and reviewed. We want to give that tool to our business owners, not just the owners, but the workers, the people, who work in these retail facilities, where people need to be. That is why we have one (mask mandate) at City Hall as it give peace of mind with that tool to be able to say something. The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina states that today, a lot of schools were delayed or closing. Our teachers are very valuable. In a lot of school system, this has taken a toll on them as well as the little one and students, who go on line or into the schools. He asks Acting Director Elak if, during this Covid peak, he has been in constant contact with the nursing staff at the Board of Education and the administration based on what is happening in and around Middletown

Acting Director Elak replies that they had a conference call last night with the school district administration – the Superintendent, Marco Gaylord, and Nursing Supervisor Mary Emerling – to discuss a lot of things. With school retuning today and with the CDC having updated the rules on quarantining and isolation, the shortening of the time period for many different reasons, his reaction is mixed. These guidelines have been charged by the Department of Public Health for pre-K through 12 schools. That is another thing we have been discussing, how to implement them in the school system. Their primary goal to keep kids in school, even with the environment we are in. We are going to have to see what happens. If it gets to the point where that cannot happen or for a quick period of going remote. He saw in the news some school systems going remote or other things. This had to do with transportation and staffing shortages, not so much with transmission in schools. We know leading up to this point, we have seen little in school transmission. Most originated outside of school where her home, sleepovers, or extra-curricular activities, not the classroom. We have to keep a close eye on this. He notes that he answered some of the question. He adds that they have been working with the school nurses. Part of the guidance from the State Health Department in changing the quarantine and isolation timeframe is that school nurses can move away from doing contact tracing for in-school contract for these reasons. It is a lot of resources needed to do that. Nurses have been doing it, but it takes a lot of time away when they should be focusing on kids, who are sick. They have been talking about moving away from contact tracing and to focus on what is going on inside the school so nurses can focus on kids coming to the office who are not feeling well.

Councilman Pessina states that these calls, are holistically involving public and private schools. They have information, the last thing he is happy to hear that they are partnering with Griffin Hospital to get the little eons done as he fears a lot for them. He reiterates, stating of that information will go through the school system, both public and private.

Acting Director Elak replies, "Absolutely," adding that hey always share this information with the schools. Marco Gaylord at the Middletown School is very good, noting that he sends out emails about it in a daily basis to school families. Acting Director Elak states that he will get that information out, adding that it is going to be on an recurring basis for every Wednesday until the 3rd week of February, If they see that there is a need after that, it can be continued, He is very excited, they will be working

with the Cross Street Church and the Ministerial Health Fellowship to get that information out to the community that this is available.

Councilman Pessina asks if they will be doing a press release, he has heard a couple of parents, who want to know where they can get vaccinations and testing, Addressing the Chair, Councilman Pessina asks if a press release would be helpful as this is happening so families with young ones will know how to get it. They are getting all of this data. He appreciates everything that Acting Director Elak is doing and thanks him for the report and his efforts.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanks Acting Director Elak and his amazing staff for all of their hard work.

10. **Payment of all City bills when properly approved**

Councilman Darnell Ford moves to pay all City bills when properly approved. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico) The matter is approved

11. **Resolutions, Ordinances, etc.**

- A. ORDINANCE: Amending the *City of Middletown Code of Ordinances*, adding § 272-16.2a Historical Structure Rehabilitation Tax Abatement for the William Southmayd House at 73 Main Street; including authorizing the Mayor to effectuate an agreement for 10-year historical rehabilitation tax abatement agreement for real estate taxes for said property, in accordance with Section 272-16.2 of the *City of Middletown Code of Ordinances*, subject to review and approval by the Office of the General Counsel as to content and form.**

APPROVED

ORDINANCE No. 01-22; K: review/ ordinance/ Sec 272-16.2 tax abatement 73 Main ORD 01-22 – 3 Jan 2022

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: That Section 272-16.2a be added as follows:

§ 272-16.2a Historical Structure Rehabilitation Tax Abatement for the William Southmayd House at 73 Main Street.

A. Purpose.

1. The William Southmayd House at 73 Main Street (the "Property") was built circa 1747 and is listed on the Connecticut Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.
2. 73 Main Street, LLC (the "Company"), whose sole and managing member is April Brodeur ("Brodeur"), acquired the Property for \$250,000 in 2019.
3. The Company and Brodeur are collectively referred to as the "Developer."
4. The Property is in disrepair and rehabilitation that will properly preserve its historic character will cost approximately \$110,000 (the "Rehabilitation Work").
5. Because of the Property's importance to the City of Middletown's history and character, and in order to undertake the Rehabilitation Work in a cost-feasible manner, the City is abating real estate taxes on the property pursuant to the authority granted to it under C.G.S. § 12-127a.

B. Tax Abatement.

1. The City hereby abates \$8,223 in real estate taxes on the Property each year over a 10-year period. The total amount of taxes abated will not exceed \$82,230.
2. This amount of \$8,223 represents a 70% abatement on the Property's current City and Fire District taxes for the 2021 tax year. The Developer is still responsible for any other assessments and fees, including the Downtown Business District and Sanitation District.

C. Non-Assignment of Agreement.

1. The approvals, benefits, and rights conferred by this Agreement inure only to the Developer. The Developer's sole and managing member is Brodeur. There are no other members and no members will be removed or added. The Developer will not assign, sell, transfer, convey, delegate or otherwise dispose of the Property, or any of the rights and obligations under this Agreement in whole or in part, including by operation of law, change of control, change of membership, or merger, without the approval of the Common Council of the City of Middletown, and any attempt to do so will render this Agreement null and void as of the date of such unapproved assignment, sale, transfer, conveyance, delegation or disposition. The Agreement will be void should the Developer declare bankruptcy or otherwise become insolvent or attempt to discharge or reduce any debt or if the Property should become subject to foreclosure.

- D. Authorization of Agreement.** The Mayor is authorized to effectuate an agreement for 10-year historical rehabilitation tax abatement agreement for real estate taxes, in accordance with Section 272-16.2 of the Middletown Code of Ordinances, for the Property, upon review and approval by the Office of the General Counsel as to content and form.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$82,230 in reduced taxes over a 10-year period, without taking into consideration additional tax revenue from appreciated property value due to the rehabilitation or periodic revaluation of the Grand List.

Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell reads the proposed ordinance and moves to approve. Councilman Edward McKeon seconds the motion.

Councilwoman Blackwell states that she is anxious to speak to this ordinance, adding that the Mayor alluded to it earlier. She notes that, on April 5, 2021, the Council approved the historical structure tax abatement, which is Section 272-17. This particular ordinance tonight is predicated on that tax abatement ordinance. This is the first tax abatement coming to the Council post approval of the original ordinance. This structure was built-in 1747 on Williams Street and relocated to Main Street. It is listed on the Connecticut Register of Historical Places and on the Nationals Register of Historic Places. It came before the EDC (Economic Development Commission) in September 2021. This evening, we are looking approve a 10-year tax abatement valued at \$82,230. She adds that this particular developer purchased this property in 2019 before the Council approved the tax abatement ordinance, indicating that this developer clearly appreciated this property. She notes that earlier there was a workshop earlier. This abatement is about offering incentives for developers who want to purchase or restore, in this case, a historical structure. She supports this proposed ordinance and asks her colleagues to do the same.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico) The matter is approved.

- B. Approving that Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim be authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Connecticut for a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 in Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, for the cost of purchasing several Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries for the City of Middletown Central Communications Center's telecommunications site; and that a new line item be created in the Capital Improvement Plan entitled "*Central Comm. Center Site UPS Batteries*" in the amount of \$25,000.00.**

APPROVED

RESOLUTION No. 01-22; K: review/ resolution/ PW – LoCIP Cent Comm – RES 01-22 – 3 Jan 2022

Whereas, it is necessary for the City of Middletown Central Communications Center to upgrade their Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries at the telecommunications site; and

Whereas, currently, the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries has passed their lifespan making it unreliable having not been replaced for the last seven (7) years, despite having a five (5) year replacement timeframe; and

Whereas, new Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries provide near-instantaneous protection from input power interruptions, by supplying energy stored in batteries. Additionally, it will protect hardware such as computers, data centers, telecommunication equipment or other electrical equipment where an unexpected power disruption could cause serious business disruption or data loss; and

Whereas, these needs meet the guidelines for projects eligible for Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, costing \$25,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: That Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim be authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Connecticut for a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 in Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, for the cost of purchasing several Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries for the City of Middletown Central Communications Center's telecommunications site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a new line item be created in the Capital Improvement Plan entitled "Central Comm. Center Site UPS Batteries" in the amount of \$25,000.00.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for these needs are available through the Local Capital Projects Improvement Program (LoCIP).

Councilman Eugene Nocera reads the resolution and moves to approve, Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Councilman Nocera states that it is important to recognize the unsung heroes at Central Communication, who handle the 911 calls. He attends the meetings. This morning, at the 11AM monthly meeting, he heard about the increases in 911 calls. These are all behind the scenes. This month, 911 calls were up 18 percent. We expect that given what has happened with the pandemic. This is a stressful job and these employees do a remarkable job. He extends thanks to Director Wayne Bartolotta and staff. This also includes the Fire Department, Police Department and auxiliary staff.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico) The matter is approved.

- C. Approving that Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim be authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Connecticut for a grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 in Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, for the cost of performing the necessary roof remodeling and repair work to 80**

Harbor Drive; and that a new line item be created in the Capital Improvement Plan entitled “80 Harbor Drive Roof Repair” in the amount of \$150,000.00.

APPROVED

2022

RESOLUTION No: 02-22; K: review/ resolution/ PW LoCIP roof 80 Harbor Dr– RES 02-22 – 3 Jan

Whereas, the City of Middletown owns 80 Harbor Drive, a parcel of land that contains a restaurant along the City’s riverfront, and

Whereas, currently, 80 Harbor Drive, due to wear and tear is in need of repair, safeguarding it against future elements such as wind, rainfall, snow, hailstones, ice, and extreme heat. These may contribute to the gradual decay and deterioration of the condition of the roof. It is therefore important to repair and maintain the roof as a way of shielding it against these elements which would otherwise increase the risk of their damage; and

Whereas, repairs will include necessary roof inspection, remodeling and repair work to 80 Harbor Drive. Contract work will replace as needed shingles and installation of ice and water barriers and other necessary materials to safeguard the structure; and

Whereas, these needs meet the guidelines for projects eligible for Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, costing \$150,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: That Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim be authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Connecticut for a grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 in Local Capital Projects Improvement Program funds, for the cost of performing the necessary roof remodeling and repair work to 80 Harbor Drive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a new line item be created in the Capital Improvement Plan entitled “80 Harbor Drive Roof Repair” in the amount of \$150,000.00.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds for these needs are available through the Local Capital Projects Improvement Program (LoCIP).

Councilman Philip Pessina reads the resolution and moves to approve. Councilman Eugene Nocera seconds the motion.

Councilman Pessina states that, once the sun comes out, take a ride to Harbor Park and see 80 Harbor Drive. The roof is nearly completed and is beautiful. It jumps out at you when you drive by. It tries in with the boardwalk and fencing, which are adjacent. These are the first of many improvements to be done to this very well-known City asset. It will be, and should be, the anchor as we move to riverfront development. Again, he urges everyone to drive by and see the work.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 11-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, Pessina, and Salafia; ABSENT: Councilman Mangiafico) The matter is approved.

Councilwoman Linda Salafia leaves the meeting at 8:15 PM.

- D. Approving to support Federal and State passage of legislation for Extended Producer Responsibility for all forms of packaging and encourage continued discussions with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ensure that this legislation represents the best interests of all Connecticut municipalities.**

APPROVED

RESOLUTION NO: 03-22; K: review/ resolution/ PW packaging law – RES 03-22 – 3 Jan 2022

WHEREAS, communities in Connecticut and across the nation are struggling to manage the rising cost of waste-disposal and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, producers of packaging have little incentive to design packaging to minimize waste, reduce toxicity, or maximize recyclability, and no organized coordination exists between the producers of packaging and the municipalities that must dispose of or recycle the packaging; and

WHEREAS, in Europe and Canada producers of packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging, and as a result have greatly increased recycling rates and infrastructure investment, thereby creating jobs and reducing taxpayer costs; and

WHEREAS, after 2017 when China changed its import policies to severely restrict the contaminated and poorly sorted recyclables it would accept, the U.S. began shipping plastic and other forms of packaging to parts of Southeast Asia and Africa with poor recycling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, many local governments are subjected to robust lobbying efforts at the state level that oppose actions to reduce generation of packaging; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a strategy that requires the manufacturers to assume financial responsibility for the end of life management of their package and is currently used for e-waste, paint and mattresses, saving municipalities in CT millions of dollars in recycling costs;

WHEREAS, EPR legislation for packaging will level the playing field for manufacturers and require manufacturers to assume the cost of collection, transportation and processing of recyclables, saving the City of Middletown, and its residents, thousands of dollars. ,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: Approves to support federal and state passage of legislation for Extended Producer Responsibility for all forms of packaging and encourage continued discussions with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ensure that this legislation represents the best interests of The City of Middletown and its residents.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Councilman Edward McKeon reads the resolution and moves to approve Councilman Philip Pessina seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 9-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, and Pessina; ABSTAIN: Councilman Gennaro; ABSENT: Councilmembers Mangiafico and Salafia). The matter is approved.

- E. Approving the allocation of the CARES Act CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding to the following Middletown Small Business: Diamond Nail Spa LLC - \$5,000.00; and authorizing the Mayor to execute all contractual paperwork necessary to facilitate the allocation of this grant, subject to review and approval by the Office of General Counsel as to form and content.**
- APPROVED**
- RESOLUTION NO: 04-21; K: review/ resolution/ ECD CARES grant RES 04-22 – 3 Jan 2022**

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown Common Council adopted Resolution No. 28-20 on May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the resolution allowed the City of Middletown to reprogram and program additional Community development Block Grant (CDBG) during the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the allocated funding was appropriated to develop small-business economic relief grants for businesses within the City of Middletown; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved of the use of the funding for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Department of Planning, Conservation and Development has opened the application process for these grant funds starting on June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning, Conservation and Development has been assisting small businesses in the application process to ensure eligibility for the CDBG funding; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Commission met on November 9, 2021 to review completed applications and approved to move forward those that have qualified; and

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: The Common Council hereby approves the allocation of the CARES ACT CDBG Funding to the following Middletown Small Business;

Diamond Nail Spa LLC	\$5,000.00
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And, The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all contractual paperwork necessary to facilitate the allocation of these Grants, subject to review and approval by the office of General Counsel as to form and content.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: These grants are funded through CARES-ACT funding and re-allocated previous year entitlement grants.

Councilman Anthony Gennaro, Sr. reads the resolution and moves to approve. Councilman Philip Pessina seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 10-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro, Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, and Pessina) ABSENT: Councilmembers Mangiafico and Salafia) The matter is approved.

- 12. Mayor’s Appointments (NONE)**
- 13. Meeting Adjournment**

Councilman Edward McKeon moves to adjourn. Councilman Philip Pessina seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a voice vote. The motion is approved unanimously by a vote of 10-0 (AYE: Councilmembers Blackwell, Carta, Faulkner, D. Ford, E. Ford, Gennaro Loffredo, Mangiafico, McKeon, Nocera, and Pessina; ABSENT: Councilmembers Mangiafico and Salafia). The matter is approved.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:21 PM.

ATTEST:
LINDA S.K. REED,
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK

K: review/ minutes/ 22 January 03 – regular meeting minutes – 3 January 2022